

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-13 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

AID-20 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-10 TRSE-00

SNM-02 DEAE-00 DRC-01 /184 W
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P R 121740Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6972

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUA

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, HA

SUBJECT: REPORTS AND RUMORS OF EXILE LANDINGS

REF: STATE 180687

1. IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JEAN CLAUDE DUVALIER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY ADRIEN RAYMOND LATE TUESDAY EVENING SEPT. 11 (REPORTED SEPARATELY) I ASKED ABOUT VARIOUS RUMORS CURRENT IN TOWN THAT AN ADDITIONAL EXILE LANDING HAD TAKEN PLACE AT GONAIVES.

2. THE PRESIDENT CLEARLY CONFIRMED IN RESPONSE TO MY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THAT THE LANDING AT CAP ST. NICOLAS WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT HAD OCCURRED AND THAT NO RPT NO LANDING HAD TAKEN PLACE AT GONAIVES OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE COUNTRY.

3. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FBIS REPORTS FROM SANTO DOMINGO OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY HAITIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EVENING SEPT. 11 THAT A LANDING BY GUERRILLAS ON THE NORTHERN COAST OF HAITI WAS THWARTED BY HAITIAN
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MILITARY UNITS USING MACHINE GUNS AND HEAVY ARTILLERY.

GOH, HOWEVER, HAS AS YET MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT IN HAITI ON REPORTED LANDING NEAR MOLE ST. NICOLAS. LOCAL PRESS SEPT. 12 MAKES NO MENTION OF INCIDENT.

4. RUMORS OF A LANDING BY HAITIAN EXILES SOMEWHERE IN NORTHERN HAITI ARE NOW VERY WIDESPREAD IN PORT-AU-PRINCE, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED SINCE GOH MOBILIZED ALL SECURITY FORCES AND SUMMONED HUNDREDS OF FOLLOWERS TO THEIR OFFICES AND TO THE PALACE IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF SEPT. 11. MOST RUMORS HAVE BEEN VAGUE AND WILDLY EXAGGERATED, REPORTING LANDING OF HUNDREDS OF ARMED EXILES AT VARIOUS POINTS ON THE COAST OF HAITI. LATEST REPORTS MORNING SEPT. 12, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN FOCUSING MORE ON MOLE ST. NICOLAS.

5. WHATEVER HAPPENED AT MOLE ST. NICOLAS SEPT. 10 STILL LARGELY UNCLEAR TO EMBASSY. IT IS APPARENT, FROM PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HAITIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AMONG OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THAT GOH IS NOT FURNISHING US WITH ALL INFORMATION IT HAS ON THE INCIDENT. EMBASSY STILL WITHOUT RELIABLE CONFIRMATION THAT INCIDENT INVOLVED HAITIAN EXILE INVASION ATTEMPT, AS ORIGINALLY ASSERTED BY GOH. IN VIEW OF GOH'S INTENSE INTEREST IN THE YACHT "MOLLY" AND IN VIEW OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT THAT "MOLLY" HAS BEEN SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING FROM JAMAICA BY SEA TO MIAMI (REFTEL), IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT MOLE ST. NICOLAS INCIDENT INVOLVED CLASH BETWEEN DRUG SMUGGLERS AND HAITIAN MILITARY PATROL. UNTIL MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, EMBASSY RESERVING JUDGMENT.
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